(b) if so, the number of houses actually constructed in that State under IAY;

(c) the amount of central assistance made available to the State Government of Orissa for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) The Government of Orissa had requested for Central assistance for construction of additional 2.5 lakh houses under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for cyclone affected districts of Orissa.

(b) As per information made available by the Government of Orissa, in the first phase 50,000 IAY houses have been sanctioned to be constructed in 12 cyclone affected districts of the State.

(c) and (d) During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 24 crore was released to cyclone affected districts under normal allocation. Besides an amount of Rs. 41.25 crore was released as Ist instalment of funds for the construction of additional 50,000 IAY houses in the cyclone affected districts.

Progress made under JRY in Assam

†4098. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial progress made by Assam under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana during the last three years has been satisfactory;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for achieving the basic objectives of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Financial progress under JRY/JGSY in Assam during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as given below. Guidelines of JRY/JGSY do not envisage 100% utilisation of funds in a year. Under JRY carry over of upto 25% of funds was permissible till 1997-98 and 20% during 1998-99 whereas under JGSY, 15% of funds is allowed to be carried forward as unspent balances

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

during 1999-2000 onwards. The performance under the programme in the State, viewed in this context is, on the whole, satisfactory.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Opening balance	Allocation (C + S)	Release (C + S)	Total availability	Funds utilised	% utilisation
1997-98	1694.46	6389.03	6905.19	8599.65	5546.71	64.50
1998-99	1070.03	8357.73	18890.35	19960.38	10967.57	54.95
1999-2000*	4172.01	7098.69	3549.26	7721.27	5392.09	69.83

*Release/utilisation upto Jan., 2000.

(c) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), which was the single largest wage employment programme, has been restructured, streamlined and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with effect from 01-4-1999. The primary objective of JGSY is creation of need-based rural infrastructure as against creation of wage employment under erstwhile JRY. The program is implemented by Village Panchayats to whom funds are released through DRDAs/Zilla Parishads. The Village Panchayats have the sole authority for preparation of Annual Action Plan and its implementation with the approval of Gram Sabha.

Barren Land in the Country

†4099. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of acres of land is lying barren in the country;

(b) whether Government have any effective scheme or programme to convert the barren land into agricultural land;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.